

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

***Allowed claims***

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 14 is allowed.

***Claim objections***

Claim 6 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claim 6 in independent form, and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the claim.

***Claim rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,439,684 to Yoshimura. Claim 1 recites the feature wherein "said predetermined print head is a print head other than the print head, among said plurality of print heads, that is furthest away from said connecting section in a direction perpendicular to the main-scanning direction." Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not taught by Yoshimura. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Yoshimura. The remaining claims are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

***Claim rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,975,780 to Kuboki. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,988,784 to Takemura. Claims 10, 11, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,905,186 to Kojima.

Claims 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,769,759 to Yamasaki. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,568,784 to Izumi.

As discussed above, claim 1 recites features that are patentable over Yoshimura. None of the remaining art of record, either alone or in any combination, cures the deficiencies of Yoshimura discussed above. Therefore, claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 15, 12 and 16, and 13 are patentable.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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